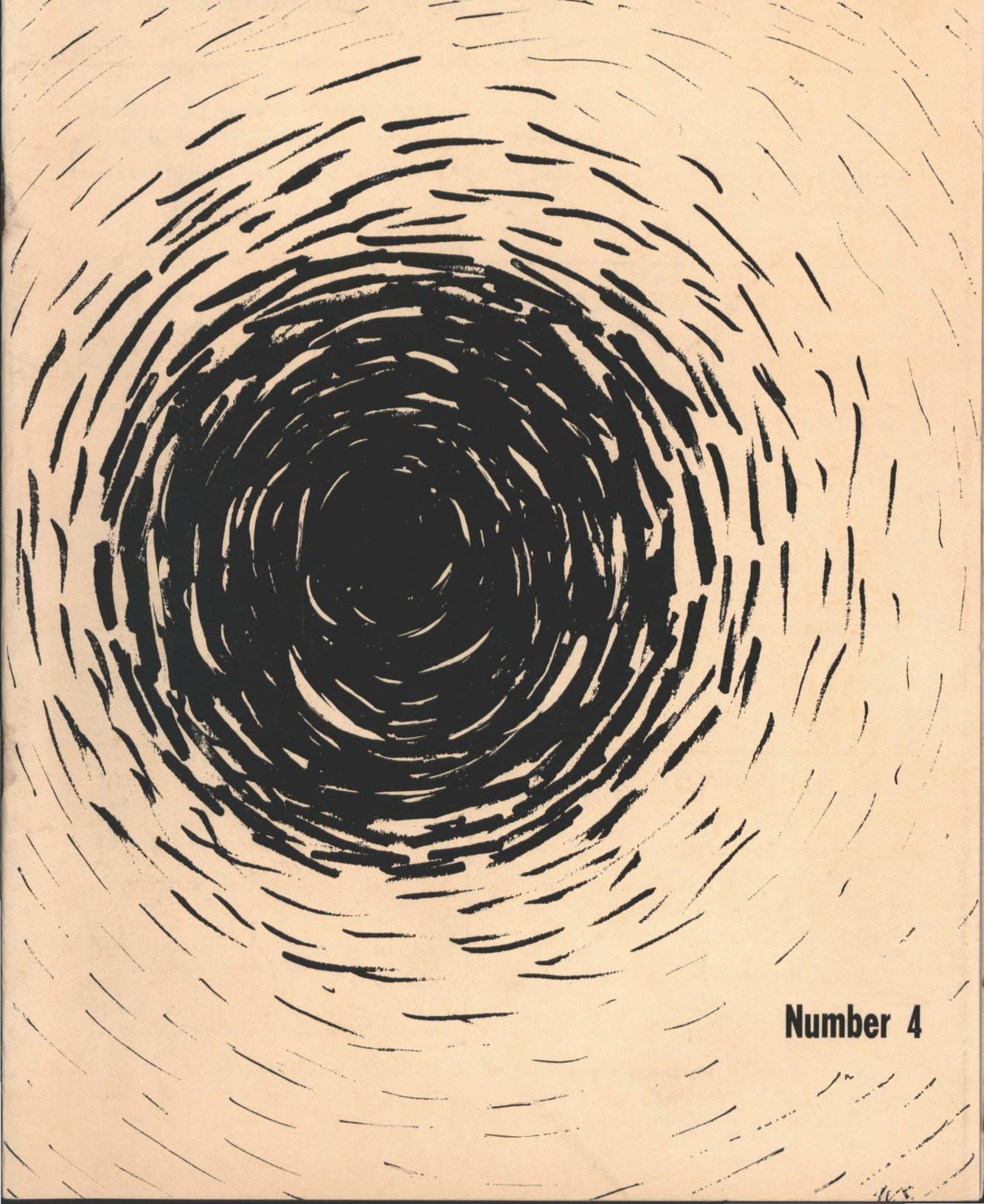


# *Australian* **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**



**Number 4**

# AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW..

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## EDITORIAL

A D E L A I D E      The recent symposium held in Adelaide under the auspices of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science provided a much needed stimulus for UFO research in this country.

E      The Editors enthusiastically commend the open-minded attitude of the organisers of the symposium and of those scientists who read papers during the proceedings.

M P O S I U      It is to be hoped that the excellent example provided by the South Australian division of the Association will shortly be emulated by similar organisations in the Eastern States.

M      \*\*\*\*\*

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# THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS

P. G. Gittins

(CONCLUDED)

Part 4. What form could extra-terrestrial life possibly take?

Questions of this nature are sometimes apt to encourage man's imagination to go beyond the bounds of reason. Rather than discuss the possibility or otherwise of two-headed, four-armed monsters, cannibal plant life or humanoid insect types, I propose to offer a combination of the ideas and suggestions put forward by Willy Ley and Carl Sagan - two American experts in this particular field - and the ideas of the Russian expert, Shklovskii.

Human intelligence is hard to define, its origins are buried in pre-history, and it is unique on Earth, so that assessing the chances of intelligence elsewhere is a highly speculative exercise.

Human intelligence has evolved, as has human anatomy, hand in hand with the terrestrial environment. But bizarre planets might produce bizarre anatomy and physiology. A planet with a turbid atmosphere, transparent only to radio waves, might produce organisms with radio eyes. But a radio eyeball (says Sagan) would have to be half a mile in diameter to be as efficient as a light eyeball. To understand such a structure, let alone decide whether it belonged to an 'intelligence' would be a baffling problem for

visiting Earthmen.

By the same argument, however, Earth-like planets would seem likely to have Earth-like inhabitants. We cannot predict everything of course, but we do have a good idea of what 'space people' MIGHT look like. Scientists theorise they will probably bear a strong resemblance to the man next door. The reason we can make this assumption is that Science has shown that the shape of a living body is not accidental. There are rules of biological construction first worked out by Christiaan Huygens in the 17th Century. Later scientists have added to his list. These rules help us picture presumed visitors before they actually step out of their space vehicle.

In applying the rules, we have to make just two assumptions:-

- (i) that the bodies of space people consist of a protoplasm like ours,
- (ii) that they are intelligent - an inescapable fact once we accept the idea that they are capable of building a space vehicle.

With those assumptions in mind, we can use Huygens' method to paint this portrait of the 'man from planet X'.

He breathes air:

Water breathers might develop some intelligence, but they would suffer from a severe handicap - they could not smelt metals under water. This means that any technology above the level of our Stone Age is the accomplish-

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THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE (from page 2)

ment of air breathers. Of course the type and composition of the air may not be the same as that surrounding Earth. And as air breathers this pre-supposes they are equipped with some organ similar to or on a parallel with our lungs.

He is probably not much larger than the average human being:

The limiting factor here is the mathematical square-cube law. If you double the height of a person without changing his proportions, you have a being with eight times the weight. This means that a person 12 feet tall, for example, must be clumsy and cannot perform precision work - and precision work will be essential of course, in building the space ship.

He weighs at least 40 pounds - probably more:

A brain of a certain size and complexity would be required for the building of a space ship. The brain of our 'space man' would weigh at least 2 pounds. And from our study of Earth animals we can calculate that a body weighing at least 40 pounds is required to support a 2 pound brain.

He has 2 eyes:

The presence of light should produce something we would recognise as an eye. A three-eyed man from space is not a very likely creation. Two eyes are better than one for the purpose of judging distances and shape, but three would not be better than two.

He has two ears:

A communications system would be absolutely essential, so there is reason to suppose our space man would have something resembling an ear. As with eyes, two are better than one, but three would not be better than two.

One might argue that more eyes and ears would be useful as spares in the case of accidents. This is logical - but Earth organisms at least do not run to spares.

He has hands and feet:

We know that our space man will walk erect. In order to survive, any being must be able to move around but, in order to build, he would need something resembling our hands. Some-

where along the line of his development he would have had to free one pair of legs to allow them to become hands. The only way to do this is to learn to stand.

Furthermore, it is almost certain that once on his back legs he would develop bending fingers and an opposable thumb. To produce a high state of technology, he would need to be able to pick things up, to be able to grasp, hold, push and pull. Why not tentacles, such as on an octopus? Because whilst tentacles can pull, they cannot push effectively.

He eats both plants and meat:

A strict plant eater spends too much time stuffing himself with unconcentrated food to build the kind of civilisation which is necessary to produce a space ship. Animals which can digest meat only would not be likely to survive the occasional adverse periods which occur on all planets and wipe out the less adaptable forms of life. Being both a plant and meat eater, it would also be logical to assume that he would have a digestive and waste system similar in principle to that of Earth men.

Now that we have drawn a rough portrait of the man from Planet X, is there anything we can guess about Planet X itself?

Here again the answer is a familiar one - his planet is probably very much like ours. Let us consider some essential features:-

Size:

Planet X cannot be much larger or smaller than Earth. If it were much bigger the gravity would be so crushingly great (as on the planet Jupiter) that it is doubtful if life, let alone intelligence, would have gotten started. If it were too small, it would not have sufficient gravitational pull to hang on to its gases (like the planet Mercury) and there would be nothing for anyone to breathe.

Atmosphere:

The planet's atmosphere, too, would be much like ours. There are only two chemical combinations that are complex enough to support life - the carbon-oxygen-hydrogen cycle we live on and the chlorine-fluorine-methane (to page 4 )

cycle.

The latter is a highly explosive mixture and though it is conceivable that somewhere there could be a life form on it, it is not likely. This cycle is so complex that the chances are heavily in favour of oxygen-based life developing before the chlorine-based form got a chance.

#### Land and sea:

Planet X would have land and sea masses and a climate with drastic changes like ours. There would have to be land for our space man to live on and water for him to drink.

#### Climate:

We know about the climate for the simple reason that if it were static there would be no incentive for our Visitor's race to build anything. Variable hot and cold, wet and dry seasons are needed to push him around.

#### Location:

All this tells us that our visitor is from outside our solar system, since it is considered that none of our Sun's planets, besides Earth, is capable of supporting intelligent life as we know it.

It also tells us something else: our space visitor is a good bit more advanced than we are.

The approach throughout this paper is that 'habitable' planets could well be common in the Universe. The emphasis is on 'could' since there is no direct evidence. The largest Earth-based telescope built so far can not reveal a planet of another star. But the indirect evidence does: viz:-

- (a) There are many twin stars orbiting each other in the sky: thus however stellar and planetary systems evolve (still a matter of much debate) it is quite common for one body to revolve around another. Many stars COULD have orbiting planets instead of an orbiting star twin.
- (b) An astronomer at Sproul University, USA, Peter van de Kamp, recorded the position of Barnard's Star, in the constellation of Cygnus, for 25 years, and detected a

small pendulum motion. This, he calculated, could be caused by a 'dark companion' - a planet about twice the size of Jupiter, orbiting the star once every 24 Earth years, and affecting its motion. If he is right, this is the first and only planet detected outside our solar system.

There could be many others, but they would be extremely difficult to detect - although a large astronomical telescope erected on the Moon might just reveal Jupiter-sized planets orbiting the nearer stars.

#### Part 5. Where is everybody?

The Earth is a 'young' planet, therefore the chances are that intelligent races exist who are much older than man. It is not impossible to imagine many races so far advanced that they have solved the problems of interstellar flight. If this is true, then:

Where is everybody? Why have they not established contact with us? Or is the fact that we have not received interstellar visitors proof that NO intelligent life exists in space?

Assuming that an advanced race could develop interstellar travel, could they explore every one of the Milky Way's 100 billion stars in an effort to find other intelligent races? Stated in this manner the prospects sound dim indeed. But examining the argument a little more closely we find this is not the case. Basically, it involves two facets: the ability to achieve interstellar flight and the ability to investigate very large numbers of stars. An intelligent race could develop the technology necessary for interstellar flight. And it need not inspect every one of the Milky Way's 100 billion stars. Some stars are manifestly inhospitable to the evolution of life, others are too young to have allowed intelligence time enough to develop. Moreover, our solar system is situated away from the centre of the galaxy, out where the stars are relatively far apart. At the galaxy's heart, where the oldest stars are, interstellar distances must be less than half of those in our region of space.

It is possible, then, to envisage an intelligent race scouting the galaxy in a highly

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# THE WONDJINA PAINTINGS

## Michael McNamara

Are the mystery cave paintings, in Western Australia's Kimberley Range, pictures of extra-terrestrial beings? I believe they are. And I am not alone in this belief. In this article I shall try to give the reasons for this belief.

The first of the Wondjina paintings, for there are many, were discovered in 1836 by the explorer Captain (later Sir) George Grey.

THE JOURNALS OF CAPTAIN GEORGE GREY'S JOURNEYS IN NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA tell us that on March 26th of that year Grey was travelling through the Kimberleys and, while looking at the towering sandstone rocks, he "suddenly saw from one of them a most extraordinary large figure peering down upon me. Upon examination, this proved to be a drawing at the entrance to a cave which, on entering, I found to contain, besides, many remarkable paintings.

"The cave appeared to be a natural hollow in the sandstone rocks; its floor was elevated about five feet from the ground, and numerous flat broken pieces of the same rock, which were scattered about, looked at a distance like steps leading up to the cave, which was thirty-five feet wide at the entrance, and

NOTE: A point in regard to Aboriginal names: because these languages were not traditionally recorded in writing by the Aborigines themselves, and because some of their sounds have no exact equivalent in English, there have been differences of opinion in regard to the most appropriate spelling. Many Aboriginal words have, therefore, been written in a variety of ways: for instance, the mythical beings Wonjina, Wanjina, Wondjina or Wandjina.

sixteen feet deep; but beyond this, several small branches ran further back. Its height in front was rather more than eight feet, the roof being formed by a solid slab of sandstone, about nine feet thick, and which rapidly inclined towards the back of the cave, which was there not more than five feet high.

"On this sloping roof, the principal figure which I have just alluded to, was drawn in order to produce the greater effect, the rock about it was painted black and the figure itself coloured with the most vivid red and white. It thus appeared to stand out from the rock; and I was certainly rather surprised at the moment that I first saw this gigantic head and upper part of the body bending over and staring grimly down at me.

"It would be impossible to convey in words an adequate idea of this uncouth and savage figure; I shall therefore only give such a succinct account of this and the other paintings as will serve as a sort of description to accompany the annexed plates.

"The dimensions of the figure were:

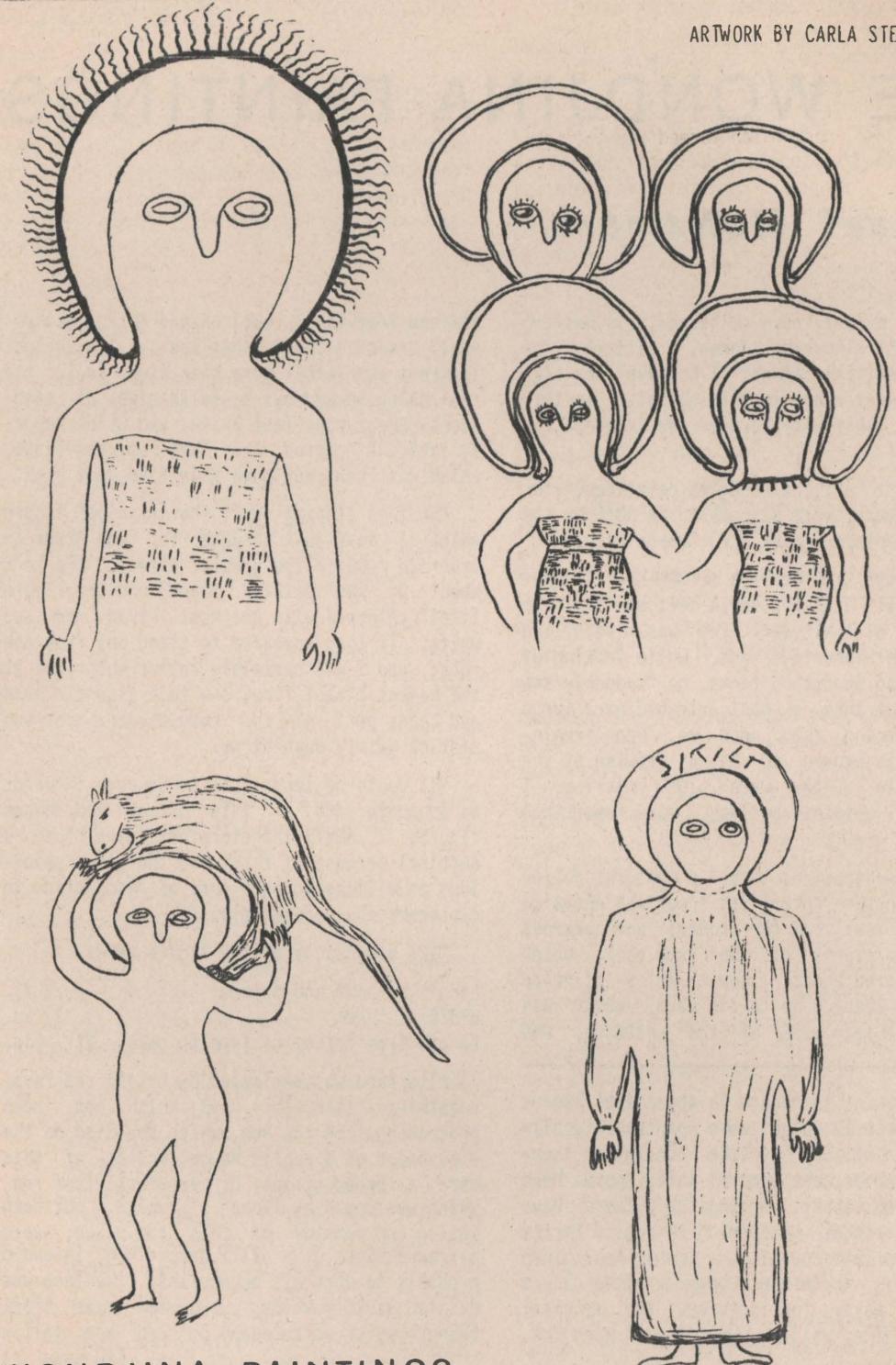
Length of head and face 2 ft.

Width of face 17 in.

Length from bottom of face to navel 2ft. 6in.

"Its head was encircled by bright red rays, something like the rays which one sees proceeding from the sun, which depicted on the sign-board of a public house; inside of this came a broad stripe of very brilliant red, which was coped by lines of white, but both inside and outside of this red space, were narrow stripes of a still deeper red, intended probably to mark its boundaries; the face was painted vividly white, and the eyes black being however surrounded by red and yellow

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WONDJINA PAINTINGS

ARTWORK BY CARLA STEDMAN

THE WONDJINA PAINTINGS

(from page 5)

lines; the body, hands and arms were outlined in red - the body being curiously painted with red stripes and bars.

"Upon the rock which formed the left hand wall of this cave, and which partly faced you on entering, was a very singular painting vividly coloured, representing four heads joined together. From the mild expression of the countenances I imagined them to represent females, and they appeared to be drawn in such a manner and in such a position as to look up at the principal figure which I have before described; each had a very remarkable head-dress, coloured with a deep bright blue, and one had a necklace on. Both of the lower figures had a sort of dress, painted with red in the same manner as that of the principal figure, and one of them had a band around her waist. Each of the four faces was marked by a totally distinct expression of countenance, and although none of them had mouths, two, I thought, were otherwise rather good looking. The whole painting was executed on a white ground, and its dimensions were:

Total length                            3 ft. 6 3/4 in.  
Breadth across two upper heads    2 ft. 6 in.  
Ditto across the lower ones        3 ft. 1 1/2 in.

"The next most remarkable drawing in the cave was an ellipse, three feet in length, and one foot ten inches in breadth: the outside line of this painting was of a deep blue colour, the body of the ellipse being of a bright yellow dotted over with red line and spots, whilst across it ran two transverse lines of blue. The portion of the painting above described formed the ground, or main part, of the picture, and upon this ground was painted a kangaroo in the act of feeding, two stone spearheads, and two black balls; so that the whole subject probably constituted a sort of charm by which the luck of an enquirer in killing game could be ascertained.

"There was another rather humorous sketch which represented a native in the act of carrying a kangaroo: the height of the man being three feet. The number of drawings in the cave could not altogether have been less than from fifty to sixty, but the majority of them consisted of men, kangaroos, and the figures being carelessly and badly executed

and having evidently a very different origin to those which I have first described.

Grey then went on to another cave and described it thus: "The cave was twenty feet deep, and at the entrance seven feet high, and about forty feet wide. As before stated the floor gradually approached the roof in the direction of the bottom of the cavern, and its width also contracted so that at the extremity it was not broader than the slab of rock, which formed a natural seat. The principal painting in it was the figure of a man ten feet six inches in length, clothed from the chin downwards in a red garment, which reached to the wrists and ankles. Beyond this red dress the feet and hands protruded, and were badly executed.

"The face and head of the figure were enveloped in a succession of circular bandages or rollers, or what appeared to be painted to represent such. These were coloured red, yellow and white, and the eyes were the only features represented on the face. Upon the highest bandage or roller, a series of lines were painted in red, but although so regularly done as to indicate that they were intended to depict written characters, or some ornament for the head. This figure was so drawn on the roof that its feet were just in front of the natural seat, whilst its head and face looked directly down on anyone who stood in the entrance of the cave, but it was totally invisible from the outside. The painting was more injured by the damp and atmosphere and had the appearance of being much more defaced and ancient than any of the others which we had seen. This figure brings to mind the description of the prophet Ezekiel."

I have taken the full text of Grey's description of the Wondjina paintings directly from his own journals to show just how fascinating and truly remarkable these paintings are. I hope that one day soon someone else will find the particular caves he talked about.

I say this because these paintings which Grey found have apparently never been found since. The figures he drew, though, unmistakably of the same type as those later found elsewhere, differ from them in several

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# WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR?

**Devin J. Meyers**

Our nextdoor neighbour is an enigma. Our nextdoor neighbour has been responsible for the apparent death of approximately one thousand people. And after countless investigations by countless experts, our enigmatic neighbour remains unknown. To put it plainly, we live on one border of the Bermuda Triangle.

The Bermuda Triangle, also called Devil's Triangle, also called other names I will not burn the reader's ears with here, is an area of the sea bordered by Florida, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas. Given any map of said area, one can see the area thus inscribed forms a rough triangle - the playing ground of forces unknown, or perhaps simply not quite understood, by man. It is an area rife with UFO, fireballs, strange lighting phenomena, and legend. It is an area frequented without mishap daily by heavy sea and air traffic. And yet it is an area of peril.

The Indian tribes of our area trace back in their history as far as it goes the strange happenings at certain times. Strange lights, skyquakes, and what are definitely 'typical' UFO.

For those of you unfamiliar with our fractious forces nearby, let me relate an incident often given as a typical Triangle happening. On December 5, 1945, five TBM Air Force Avenger bombers took off from Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station. As in most Triangle incidents, the pilots were expert, and familiar with the area. On a routine two hour reconnaissance flight, starting at 2.00 p.m., everything seemed normal. Flying conditions were fine. At 3.45 p.m. a message came from the patrol leader. An emergency had developed. They could not sight land, and seemed to

be lost. "We can't be sure of any direction. Even the ocean doesn't look as it should." The sea was calm, and the sun shone. And yet this squadron of electronically sophisticated planes were together and, helplessly, lost. At 4.00 p.m. the regular patrol leader relinquished command to a fellow pilot. Why, one can't be sure. The new commander relayed a message to base control, "We are not certain where we are. We think we must be about 225 miles N.E. of base.....it looks like we are...." No more noise, no word, no static. Nothing. A Martin Mariner - a tremendous flying boat with paramedical rescue crew and possessing the ultimate in search equipment - was sent to the aid of the missing Avengers. When the Mariner was about 20 minutes on its way, tower control radioed the rescue craft. There was no answer. The Coast Guard was called out. The seas were calm with waves of 2-4 feet. The visibility was clear, and yet there was nothing to see. No debris, no survivors. From what? A merchant ship in the area observed what appeared to be a high altitude explosion with particularly bright visual effects later that night (7.30 p.m.). A government inquiry turned up - nothing.

One of my friends, an electronic engineer, was lost on his boat in the Triangle. Mr. Dinsmore could not rely on his electronic devices. He could offer no explanations. He simply sold his boat.

Another friend, scientist Terry Martinez, had a similar experience in his light aircraft. Flying from the Bahamas to Ft. Lauderdale, his instruments failed to function. Needles swung wildly, and the sky "turned funny and looked like it was moving." He got

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WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR? (from page 8)

home somehow, and within a week had sold his aircraft and moved to Kansas.

This is the typical Triangle phenomenon. Calm seas, clear sky, and disappearance. No bodies, no wreckage, no oil slick - even over shallow sea. At times sea and air craft seem fine and are in mid normal transmission with base. Perhaps they could see the lights of the city. Craft with flick-switch emergency SOS transmitters send no signal. The D.C.3 Ariel on January 17, 1949, sent a message of all's well. They were changing from the Bermuda frequency to pick up Kingston in Jamaica. There was no sign of any trouble, and then - no sign of the Ariel. Kingston heard nothing. Rescue saw nothing.

Compasses, electronic equipment, and perhaps radio, is affected by whatever forces cause these strange happenings. It is known that rapidly changing frequency of electro-magnetic pulses can affect middle ear balance, as well as cause visual and emotional disturbances. There are theories of areas of electro-magnetic vortices existing at certain times and in certain areas in parts of the world. Conditions could be right frequently in the Triangle. But if this theory is correct, what causes the vortices?

Fireballs are rife in the area, and bolides. The following report, not at all atypical of the 'fireballs', was sent in by Senior Captain William Nash, Pan-American pilot, to Orbit Magazine (vol.11 no.1). The report is as follows:-

...a PAA airplane crew with Captain Charles Elmore in command saw three bright white lights due south of their D.C.6B. ...the lights were 15° higher than the aircraft. They were much brighter than aircraft flares and larger. They appeared to hover with the front two connected by a line of light between them. Suddenly they blinked out.

The tower saw them too - couldn't identify them. The time was 8.35 p.m. The lights had fuzzy edges and were round. Clear night, no inversion, too bright for reflections. Four persons on Biscayne Bay reported odd lights moving at sea from about 8.05 to 8.15 p.m. Many persons and pilots saw a very bright streaking object at 7.55 p.m. ...airplanes

(in the Triangle) reported a bright green object as big as the moon with a long white tail. No sound reported.

...some meteorologists who didn't see it tagged it a meteor. The PAA pilots say that what they saw was no meteor. A Marine pilot over Andros Island said it landed gradually on Andros.

The Triangle is a home of another enigma, the UFO. Many plane crashes are the results of collisions with UFO. Or fireballs, as it were. Ball lightning and other electro-magnetic phenomena not clearly understood have also caused crashes. Ball lightning has been known to condense, pass through a key-hole, expand, and wreck havoc inside. Its movements have caused some scientists to expound that ball lightning may in fact be a type of electro-magnetic 'life' found in the upper atmosphere. Are UFO merely another type of electro-magnetic phenomenon? Some experts think so. There follows a report by the noted electronics theorist, Joseph Evin.

"It is a well known fact that any ionized gaseous layer presents a highly reflective surface to radar waves. Also known is the fact that two beams of electromagnetic energy, when intersecting in a rarefied gaseous atmosphere, will cause ionization to occur which, when moving like a searchlight on a ceiling, will present all the descriptive behaviour of sighted saucers - from circular to cigar shapes, from almost zero velocity to many times above mach speeds, and from slow to extremely fast accelerations. Couple all this with the mega-megawatt pulse energies from parabolic radar antenna and you have all the necessary ingredients of the majority of saucer reports."

I've been studying UFO for about eight years now, and to me the greatest mystery, as with the Triangle, is that more definitive research has not been done. Logically, one with the proper scientific attitude would wish to search out the answers. I've been out on the Bermuda Triangle myself, in craft as light as a Folbot, and in other sea and air craft. I've been watching the skies (and the seas - many of my friends have seen underwater UFO) and have seen nothing that may not have had a common, everyday explanation. Most of

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# Playground for flying saucers

Who would have guessed that there is a flying saucer playground in SA? It is in our Mid-North, according to a young man who came in yesterday.

Keith Basterfield, 20, of Alexander crescent, Christies Downs, a member of the Aerial Phenomena Research Group, came in with his mate, Peter Powell, 16, of Sydney street, Glen-side, a member of UFO Research and Investigation.

Their visit was a follow-up to my item about the growing number of UFO groups in SA. Keith says the Mid North has been the playground of UFOs for many years.

Back in the 1890s people saw ghost lights in the sky, he says — and today Mid North people hear strange whirring noises in the sky. Things go bump in the night...

Two Burra people saw a fiery ball as big as a house . . . a ball of fire was seen near Clare . . . there was a disc with an orange tail . . . people saw flying cigars . . . a football . . . meteors . . .

"ADVERTISER"

Adelaide, S.A.

15/9/71.

"ADVERTISER"

BAIRNSDALE, VIC., 15/11/71.

## Car "stalled" by U.F.O.

Mrs. W. Martin, of Bairnsdale, related her experiences in 1966 when her car was "stalled" by a flying object, to the monthly meeting of the Bairnsdale Unidentified Flying Objects (U.F.O.) group.

Mrs Martin said she encountered the object while driving home along Bredt Street.

She said that this was not an isolated incident in the district, as two other cars have been reportedly followed by U.F.O.'s for about 20 miles.

In addition, Mrs Martin said interference with a dairy herd in the area paralleled a similar occurrence at Willow Grove in 1963.

Apparently the close proximity of a U.F.O. had caused the cattle acute distress, and in the local incident the cattle took four hours to settle down after the encounter.

The Bairnsdale group feels that the effects on cars and cattle indicates that the flying objects are studying things of substance.

## UFOs AND SCIENTISTS THEME OF SEMINAR

Australian scientists generally had unscientific attitudes to the problems of unidentified flying objects, Dr. B. H. Horton, of Adelaide University physics department, said today.

Fear of ridicule was the main reason.

"But by dismissing the whole problem of UFOs, they could well be neglecting investigations which could lead to significant scientific discoveries about the nature of the universe," he said.

Dr. Horton will be one of the guest speakers at a symposium at Adelaide University on October 30, aimed at changing the attitude of the majority of scientists.

Other speakers at the symposium, held by the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science Inc., will include noted physicists, astronomers and meteorologists.

Topics will include examination of the hypothesis that UFOs are extraterrestrial observers of earth, comparing the form of sightings with known methods of satellite observation techniques, and the place of origin of UFOs.

"MAIL" 16/10/71.

Adelaide, S.A.

## ODD LIGHTS AT N'CLIFF

A Nightcliff man and his five-year-old daughter saw what they think was an unidentified flying object over the northern suburbs on Sunday night.

Mr Mick Taylor, of Bougainvillea Street, said yesterday he was driving along Progress Drive towards the city about 8.30 pm.

"I saw three bright lights to the south," he said. "They were in a triangular formation, and were like white fluorescent lights."

"They didn't move and they made no noise, just hung there."

"I watched them for about 10 minutes then carried on with my drive."

"When I returned they were gone."

"Later we found our five-year-old daughter under her bed."

"We asked her why and she said she had woken up and seen three bright lights in the sky, so she had hidden under the bed."

Mr Taylor said the lights were definitely not an aircraft.

"NEWS"

Darwin, N.T.

16/11/71.

"TELEGRAPH"

Brisbane, Qld. 12/10/71.

## 12 SIGHTINGS OF UFO'S

BELGRADE, Mon. (AAP): Speculation about unidentified flying objects, UFOs, has gripped Yugoslavia, with 12 reported sightings in 11 days.

Vечерње Новости, the largest circulation newspaper in the country, published a photograph said to have been taken by a technical school teacher at Medulin, on the Adriatic coast of a blurred whitish round object with a tail shaped like a comma.

It was said to emit light stronger than the moon. The paper also said the Astronomical Society of Sarajevo sighted two UFOs in daylight through a telescope. One was described as a white triangular object and the other white with an irregular shape.

# ION ENGINES

## A SPACE PROPULSION LECTURE

by L. E. Adam

(CONCLUDED)

### 3. HOW DO ION ENGINES WORK?

The concept of ion engines is not new. In 1929 a rocket engineer, Hermann Oberth, discussed the theory of such a system in a paper presented before the 1929 Munich Engineering Conference. However, it was only theory and not accepted with enthusiasm due probably to lack of knowledge. Translation of his theories into physical hardware has had to wait until modern day developments in the necessary engineering and scientific disciplines. Furthermore, until the recent advent of space flight the need for such a propulsion system failed to show any significance.

In the ion engine, as with the already familiar chemical fuel engine, thrust is derived by the rapid expulsion of exhaust from within the engine. But, instead of a chemical product of combustion, the exhaust of the ion engine consists of positively charged atoms, or ions. The thrust generated by an ion engine depends (again as with a chemical fuel engine) on two things - the rate at which the unit consumes fuel, and the velocity of the exhaust.

Let us examine this knowledge mathematically:-

$$P = MV/T$$

where  $P$  = thrust

$M/T$  = mass-flow/second

$V$  = exhaust velocity.

Thus for a given thrust, a smaller mass-flow is possible if the velocity of the exhaust can be increased. This is obviously an economic consideration directly in line with our earlier comment upon the useful payload statistics.

The significance of exhaust velocity is brought out by examination of the following equation which applies to any rocket or jet:-

$$V_r = V_e \log_e (M/M_0)$$

where  $V_r$  = is the velocity imparted to a rocket, of initial mass  $M$  by the consumption of a mass ( $M-M_0$ ) of fuel with an exhaust velocity of  $V_e$ .

NOTE: The mass of the rocket when all the fuel has been consumed is  $M_0$ .

It is clearly desirable that the percentage fuel weight should be as low as possible so that the mass ratio  $M/M_0$  should tend towards unity.

The most active chemical rocket fuel is liquid-hydrogen/liquid-oxygen, which gives an exhaust velocity of 3.5 KM/second. By contrast, exhaust velocities of from 10KM/second to 100KM/second are fairly common with the experimental ion engines.

The first experimental ion propulsion  
(to page 13)

### ION ENGINES

(from page 12)

system, SERT-1 (Space Electric Rocket Test), was flown by the United States of America in 1964 and a number of other systems are under development in the U.S.A., Europe and (presumably) Russia. The U.S.A. is currently pursuing two ion propulsion programmes. The first is SERT-11, directed towards demonstrating the long term operation of an ion engine in space, while the second SCEPST (Self-contained Electric Propulsion Systems Technology), is designed to develop the power generation apparatus for the support of flight rated systems in orbit.

Two possible fuels, mercury and caesium, may be employed in ion engines, but mercury is easier to handle and is less reactive chemically and so is preferred. Mercury also satisfies all the requirements:-

- (a) Low boiling point - necessary in order to save on the power generation requirements;
- (b) Low ionisation potential - in other words easily ionised; again saving power;
- (c) High atomic weight (200.61) - in other words very heavy thereby extending this density and weight to the mass of the particles. For a comparison, the atomic weight of hydrogen is 1.008.

Three basic operations characterise the operation of the ion engine. These are:- the production of ions; their acceleration in an electric field; and the neutralising of the resultant ion beam.

(As will be seen in the diagram), mercury is heated and boils into a hot vapour. The vapour then passes into a hollow cathode, the inner walls of which are coated with a mixture of barium, strontium and calcium carbonates. This coating emits free electrons copiously at relatively low temperatures. The engine is virtually started by the extremely high frequency arcing of what is essentially a spark plug. A great profusion of fast moving electrons is thus liberated and this excited plasma then flows into a narrow orifice which is the ion chamber.

Ions are produced by electron bombardment therefore it is necessary to hold the neutral

mercury vapour within the tiny confines of the ion chamber for as long as possible. This is accomplished by the weak magnetic field about the ion chamber. Throughout this length the engine is maintained at the temperature required to boil the mercury into vapour. The plasma, with the mercury atoms ionised, now enters the plasma chamber. The plasma chamber is in fact an anode (the walls are positively charged) and, therefore, attracts and collects the excited electrons but repels the positive mercury ions. At the 'open' end of the plasma chamber is a fine screen grid which is maintained at a negative potential slightly less than the cathode, and which repels the electrons back into the plasma chamber.

Further control is exercised by an electromagnetic field about the plasma chamber which forces the positive mercury ions towards the exhaust end but tends to restrain the lighter electrons. As an electron weighs only one eighteen-hundredth the weight of a proton or neutron, any reaction of forces is insignificant. When the positive mercury ions speed through the screen grid they come into the influence of a second grid - the accelerator grid. This second grid is maintained at between 1000 to 3000 volts negative with respect to the cathode and thus the mercury ions, which are already moving at a very high speed, are further accelerated to an extremely high velocity. This velocity is directly proportional to the voltage present on the accelerator grid thereby affording a very effective speed control.

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## ION ENGINES

(from page 13)

The magnitude of the thrust attained is demonstrated by the formula:-

$$W = PV/2z$$

where  $W$  = the power of the exhaust beam.

$P$  = the thrust generated.

$V$  = the velocity of the ions in the beam.

$z$  = the efficiency of the engine.

Typical values for these quantities are:-

$W$  = 500 Watts.

$V$  = 30 KM/Second.

$z$  = 90%.

which leads to a thrust of 0.015 Newton or about 0.03 Kg per Watt/Second.

The continued expulsion of positive ions would result in a gradually increasing negative charge building up on the engine and its spacecraft, which would eventually prevent the engine from functioning. It is, therefore, important to maintain an electrically neutral spacecraft structure, and this is achieved by neutralising the ion beam after the ions have been accelerated. Electrons, withdrawn from the plasma in the plasma chamber, are discharged into the beam from a suitably shaped probe without disturbing the beam.

## 4. POWER REQUIREMENTS:

The pacing factor in the development of an efficient and economic ion-propulsion system has been, until recently, the lack of a light weight electrical power source. While chemical fuel engines are self sufficient (needing only fuel and oxidant), ion engines require large quantities of electric power.

Recently a miniature atomic reactor, based on the principle of the great heat generated being applied to a Peltier effect generator of 150 KW output, has been developed. Based on the earlier formula discussed, we can achieve around 45,000 Kg of thrust. This equals about 993,261 lbs. of thrust, which is quite comparable with chemical fuel systems.

The weight factor of the ion engine is of

considerable importance now because, although the ion engine itself weighs about the same as a rocket engine, the fuel requirement is only 4,045 lbs. for a launch as against 46,000 lbs. of chemical fuel. Furthermore, the total weight of the atomic generator is less than 13,000 lbs. including shielding. There is an evident useful payload extension of about 28,955 lbs. which really means a much smaller rocket can do the same job as the present size systems.

## 5. THE FUTURE OF ION ENGINES:

The wider use of the ion engine has until very recently been inhibited by the lack of a suitable, economically sized power plant for the supply of the high order of voltages required to attain useful thrust from the ion engine. However, with the advent of the development by the Atomic Energy Commission of the miniature atomic generation plant, the problem would appear to have been solved. This is not yet the case. There arise now several problems affecting the practical use of such a system.

Firstly, the disarmament agreements still being pursued could be retrogressively affected by the placement of an atomic device into space. Next would appear the resistance, out of uneducated fear, to the propulsion of an atomic reactor into the upper atmosphere and out into space. One has only to recall the tremendous resistance to the "Savanah", an atomic powered merchant ship. There were a considerable number of ports throughout the world which would not permit entry of the Savanah. This was despite the perfectly safe reactor system aboard. Strangely though, the world's nuclear powered submarines have not encountered this same resistance. Perhaps we are ostriches. What we can't see can't affect us! The point, pertinently, is that there is a substantial amount of effort to be exerted to attune man's thinking toward acceptance of this form of power.

When the world does accept this useful form of propulsion not only will we see the great benefits in terms of space, one can readily imagine transport and industry of the future leaning more toward an ion powered system of thrust or force.

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## ION ENGINES

(from page 14)

### 6. INTERESTING POINTS:

Let us pre-suppose that another civilisation say only 50 years ahead of us, technologically speaking that is, would have overcome the problems we face today. This is not an unreasonable pre-supposition and a number of interesting facts emerge:-

(a) Even in our present ion engines the exhaust velocity of the positive mercury ions can be made to greatly exceed the speed of light. By the laws of physics we know that we must achieve a thrust velocity greater than that required in speed of the thrusting vehicle. Therefore, if our exhaust velocity exceeds the speed of light by a considerable margin then theoretically our spacecraft could cross vast voids of space in small sections of time. Thus it is not unreasonable to presume that civilisations from another galaxy could reach us in months whereas a journey of similar magnitude would take centuries by chemical fuel propulsion.

(b) We have used mercury powered lighting systems in our streets for many years and many of us are quite well acquainted with the blue/purple light radiated. The exhaust from an ion engine using positive mercury ions is the same blue/purple light when in the atmosphere. However, the colour does undergo a change according to the power of the thrust. At low power the lesser amount of mercury ions being exhausted mixes with the oranges and blues of the atmosphere to cause a bluish green light to appear, while at high power the powerful blue light comes through in its full colour.

(c) The noise of an ion engine is very much akin to the hum of an electric generator at low or cruising power, whereas when the throttles are opened full out the noise changes to one similar to a vacuum cleaner. The volume of this noise is only about one per cent that of a Boeing 707.

Now the interesting question is: How do

these facts appear when compared with data compiled from authenticated sightings of UFOs?

## AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

NOTE: It has been decided that AUSTRALIAN FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will revert to being numbered in 'volumes' and there will, in future, be six issues to a volume.

For the convenience of those who possess back-numbers of AFSR may it be known that the first seven issues, dating from January 1960 to November 1962, will become Vol.1. Nos.1-7.

The next eight issues, dating from May 1964 to 1968, will become Vol.2. Nos.1-8.

The current series, already issued to No.4., will become Vol.3. Nos.1-6. Such identification will henceforth appear on the front cover.

## THE WONDJINA PAINTINGS (from page 7)

ways. Above all, the red band around the head is, as Grey drew it, obviously a 'halo', and on the halo appear certain marks which look like characters in writing. The striking thing about these characters is that they also appear carved on stones in certain parts of South America. Professor Homet, who examined these carved stones, concluded that the marks were made at least 10,000 and possibly as long as 30,000 years ago. (30,000 years, interestingly enough, is the date given for the Aboriginal's migration to Australia). The fact that the marks which Homet reproduced in SONS OF THE SUN are the same as those which Grey found in the halo around the head of the Aborigines' sacred figure, the Wondjina, must strengthen the belief that the paintings are portraits of a superior people once known in other parts of the world and everywhere identified with the immortal gods.

Attempts have been made to explain away the figures as relics of a religious cult perhaps introduced by early missionaries. However, this does not stand up to examination as the paintings are too old for this to have been the case. The paintings, however, do prove that European colonists were not the first civilized visitors to Australia. Most important of all is the fact that the Aborigines themselves seem to support the 'space visitors' hypothesis.

The Wondjina, they say, were 'creative ancestral beings' who visited them in the earliest times and are still alive. At their first appearance they came as creators, forming the landscape and establishing all the institutions of native life. When their work was done they entered into a cave and died, a companion painting their portraits on a rock wall. Then, according to the Aborigines, they passed on to another plane of existence. They are still responsible for the continuation of natural life, birth of babies, the coming of rain and all aspects of fertility and, to maintain their power, the natives retouch their portraits at a certain time of the year, a duty which they strictly observe.

Upon one thing the Aborigines are insistent. Although they admit to their race having painted all the other rock figures, they absolutely deny having had anything to do with

the portraits of the Wondjina. The creatures who the portraits represent did them themselves when they were on earth. Now they have returned to the sky and can be seen at night as lights moving high above the earth, but since their creative work was completed they have not openly reappeared.

The discovery that the Aborigines are aware of strange moving lights in the sky is interesting, to say the least. Who knows how many U.F.O. reports, down through the years, the Aborigines could provide us with if we could only ask all of them.

The Aborigines do not see time as a fixed and orderly force, moving ever onwards at the same pace, but as a kind of state where movements in any direction can be made. The Wondjina, which to Europeans are unreal figures living only in myth, are to the Aborigines just as material as are the kangaroos, snakes and other animals painted alongside them. They are associated with the lights in the sky. The Aborigines believe these lights to be the embodiment of their ancestors, the creators of their world; thus the Wondjina and the strange lights are identical.

A feature of native art which has considerable bearing on the interpretation of the Wondjina paintings is that the Aborigines are, above all, naturalistic painters. Apart from a few conventional stylizations and decorative motifs, all the figures they paint on rock surfaces are taken from life, often accurately detailed. Among the more modern pictures found in the Kimberley Range area are shown Japanese sailors and soldiers in 19th Century uniform, an early Dutch colonist wearing clogs and a remarkable Crucifixion scene showing natives nailed to the cross and centurians in what looks like the uniform of the Royal Australian Air Force. Would it not be strange if the Wondjina were the only purely imaginary figures in the Aborigines' rock galleries? And is it not presumptuous of the white man to dismiss them as such, simply because the creatures they represent have not appeared during the short period of European colonizations? The natives have an explanation for all their pictures, including those of the colonists, and when they say that the Wondjina were early visitors to Australia it is hard to

(to page 17)

## THE WONDJINA PAINTINGS (from page 16)

disbelieve them on that point alone: particularly since similar beings, men with white skin and fair hair, play such an important part in the early legends of Central and South America.

Besides the legends, which explain the Wondjina portraits, there are other indications that the Aborigines were once in contact with a superior race of creative, civilizing people. It is clear that at one time they formed a far more advanced and organized society than they do now - before becoming, as they are at this time, in danger of losing almost every vestige of their culture, including any form of coherent religion.

Certain of the Aborigines' artifacts are outstanding. The boomerang, for example, is something far above their present level of culture. In a stagnant society like that of the Aboriginal the evolution of such a technically sophisticated object would be inconceivable. There can be no doubt that this is a survival from times when the laws of aerodynamics, on which it is undoubtedly based, were actively studied. The fact that some tribes have entirely forgotten the use of it and others keep it only as a toy, shows how easily it might have been lost in the general decline (particularly after coming in contact with the white man) of Aboriginal culture.

The Wondjina, the gods from the sky who first established the laws of men, appear in the caves wearing over their heads the inverted horseshoe. So do the god figures carved thousands of years ago on the rocks of Mexico, South America and Central Asia. In this symbol of the superior race can also be seen the origin of the halo.

On the rock walls placed in relationship with the Wondjina appears the figure of the rainbow serpent, arching his back protectively over the world in exactly the same way as Nut, the Egyptian goddess of the dead. The rainbow serpent also figures in the mythology of the Indians of the west coast of America. The inverted horseshoe shape of the rainbow serpent demonstrates a reversal of the more usual process by which, from representing the vehicle of the gods, the snake came to stand for the gods themselves. In this case the

horseshoe symbol of the men from the sky became the symbol of their vehicle, the serpent.

The Aborigines tell of a 'Dreamtime', a wonderful idyllic age in the past when a people formally known on earth, lived in a state outside time and when the language of the animals could be understood by men. I seem to remember a certain Garden of Eden whose story was very similar.

Of the ancient rock drawings found in many parts of the world Peter Kolosimo, writing in NOT OF THIS WORLD, has this to say, "In Australian caverns and on the rocks there we find innumerable designs of this nature, only a few of which have been accurately examined and photographed under the auspices of the National Museum but they are enough to show the extraordinary affinity with those of the Sahara. Heads without mouths, and clothes seeming able to suggest only overalls or suits: how can we interpret these extremely ancient rock pictures, considering that the aborigines lived and still live" (in their natural state) "quite naked - 'human symbols', as one anthropologist has put it, 'of a most remote prehistoric period'?"

Kolosimo, describing figures discovered in the Woomera area of South Australia, goes on to say, "One of them has on his chest certain marks which at once suggest the small orifices on some space-suits, while in another one there are two objects sketched which appear to be head-phones. But the most curious drawing is the one on a rounded rock which can only be seen in its entirety from one point. 'We are almost tempted to think that the artist must have wanted to show both a space-ship and the scene going on at the foot of the vehicle' a journalist says." (See p.53 of 'Not of This World').

The book continues, "'These designs', Prof. Alexei Kasanzev says, 'allude to unknown beings who must have visited Earth several thousand years ago. We must continue to study and discuss them. We can talk it over with every conceivable argument but there is no justification for ignoring them.' The resulting discoveries and details emerging from careful examinations confirm the validity of this statement."

## THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE (from page 4)

purposeful fashion, seeking out stars that are old and stable enough to have sponsored intelligent life. With the use of powerful radio receivers or other detection devices, interstellar explorers might be able to find inhabited planets at very great distances. So it would seem that while Earth is indeed a single grain of sand on the vast shores of space, an intelligent race might find us; if it had enough energy, time and purpose.

If and when we meet other intelligent races, the chances are that the technologies will be fully as old as they are. Thus, if we meet an older race, its technology will be far advanced over ours. And if we find a younger race, its talents will be similarly undeveloped.

To assume we are in first place in the galaxy's IQ rating is rash indeed. If astronomy has taught man anything it is the painful fact that we are not special creatures in any sense of the term. Our star is an average one, and the conditions that led to the formation of our planet and ourselves are probably not very extraordinary. Even granting that we might be among the older citizens of the Milky Way, we must assume that among the galaxy's 100 billion stars there are some that harbour much more intelligent species.

Thus the question returns again: Where is everybody?

The answer may be this: They may be watching us right now - using us to learn more about the phenomenon called intelligence and waiting for us to reach the maturity necessary before we can join them as galactic equals.

Part 6. What about 'Unidentified Flying Objects'?

On this topic I would like to make but two comments:-

(i) Governments of the world - the USA, USSR, UK, Canada and Australia - are spending money - in some cases considerable sums - investigating these sightings in an attempt to solve the question: "What are they?"

Without exception, the governments

mentioned admit that some sightings can NOT be accounted for in any way known to man. They are - and remain - a mystery.

- (ii) Is it possible that some of these sightings could be space probes - either an instrumented probe or manned probe - studying the Earth in an attempt to learn more about it and its inhabitants. After all, man himself is doing just this to the other planets in his solar system.

Have we been and are we being visited? I am inclined to think the answer to this question is an unqualified YES.

Sagan is impressed by a legend about the origin of Sumerian civilisation. The gods of the Sumerians were each associated with a different star. The cosmos was governed by an assembly of deities and there survive seals depicting sunlike objects surrounded by various numbers of planets. "Such a Picture", he says, "is not altogether different from what we might expect if a network of confederated civilisations interlaced the galaxy."

Not long ago it was rather fashionable to proclaim man's insignificance and loneliness in a vast empty Universe. Perhaps this loneliness is becoming oppressive or the possibility of self-destruction too menacing. However this may be, there seem to be increasing numbers of scientists prepared to populate the Universe - very speculatively and cautiously - with superior intelligences, hopefully benevolent, possibly menacing.

### Conclusion:

Of all the members of the animal kingdom, man - homo sapiens - is the most conceited. He is convinced that his species is uniquely intelligent and that it dominates all others. He is convinced too, that his planet was a special 'Act of Creation' to provide a platform just for him, the only life in the Universe. As far as he is concerned, the Sun is there to warm him and, coupled with the life-giving rain, to provide him with crops for food. It turns in a circle about the Earth to give him a day for work and a night for rest. The Moon is there to give him tides for shipping and moonlight for romance. Everything was done for him and his benefit. Or was it? (to page 19)

## THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE (from page 18)

Fortunately through the centuries a few philosophers and learned men have speculated a little more objectively and with the rise of Science, the egocentric view of the Universe has been dealt a series of death blows. These men began to formulate theories to account for what they had observed, and these theories - some of them quite fantastic - showed the mind of man at work on the problems and puzzles of the Universe. Their theories were the stepping stones to our present day knowledge.

The Copernican Theory, for instance, displaced the Earth from its central position to become just one of the many planets circling round the Sun. And the Sun, in turn, was recognised to be just one of the countless billions of stars - in no way unusual.

Then fossil evidence, buried deep in the Earth's crust, established that the living species, including man, were no special 'Act of Creation'. Culminating in the Darwinian Theory of Evolution, the scientific view of man disposed, as nothing else had, of his vain illusions of special privilege in the scheme of cosmic things.

The broader perspective thus gained, posed in turn a bolder question. If, as astronomy confirms, our microscopic corner of the Universe is a fair average example with nothing extraordinary about it, why should the Earth be the one and only haunt of living creatures? Does life exist elsewhere in the Universe? Why indeed should biological development be limited to just one isolated speck?

It would seem then, that in the face of all that man has learned, to believe that he was 'specially created' and that of all the vast stellar systems, Earth is the sole abode of life, is ludicrous. ●

## UFOS OVER SOUTH AUSTRALIA - 1971. (from inside back cover)

parents, and gave his account in a straight and logical manner. Cross questioning failed to reveal any discrepancies in the account.

A physical check of the area concerned failed to produce any likely explanation.

(Credit: Mr. K. Basterfield for A.P.R.G.)

## WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR ? (from page 9)

my friends have. I shall continue to research UFO, as well as the Triangle. My neighbour next door has not shown his face, so perhaps if I'm given enough free time and the proper craft, I shall go to visit him. If he proves kind enough, I shall introduce you to him. If he's willing. ●

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# UFOs OVER SOUTH AUSTRALIA - 1971 .

By kind permission of two South Australian groups we are able to publish the following recent reports of sightings received and investigated by those groups.

We quote from the detailed "Report Sheets" of the AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH GROUP of South Australia, P.O. Box 114, Christies Beach 5165, now incorporated with the "Australian UFO Report" published by U.F.O. RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION, P.O. Box 51, Glenelg, South Australia 5065.

At 12.35 a.m. on 11th February 1971, a group of wharfmen were unloading a wheat ship at Ceduna (some 500 miles north-west of Adelaide) when they observed an unusual object in the sky.

The description given was of an oval-shaped, bluish-white object from which was projected a beam of white light, onto the sea. The diameter of this beam on the water was estimated as 15 feet, and the object itself was about 500 feet in altitude.

The object approached from the south-east at about the speed of a light aircraft, passed over the ship and continued north-west towards Denial Bay. As it passed soundlessly over, no associated lights were seen, e.g. navigation lights. One witness who was immediately below the object saw only the white beam as it swept over the ship.

The witnesses were adamant that the object was not an aircraft due to the absence of noise and navigation lights. Two of the witnesses also contacted the airfield at Ceduna and were independently informed that there had been no traffic in the area at the time concerned.

Investigations revealed no conventional explanation for the report.

(Credit: Mr. L. Kannermann for A.P.R.G.)

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A South Australian country newspaper clipping came to light on September 29, 1971, headlined "Buzzed by UFO", which promised an interesting report. An investigation was therefore carried out by Mr. K. Basterfield (Aerial Phenomena Research Group), on Oct. 2.

Firstly, the editor of the paper which had published the item was interviewed and confirmed the details given in the brief item. He stated that the witness, a male 51 years old and a P.M.G. employee was highly regarded by all who knew him, and that he personally would vouch for him.

The witness was subsequently interviewed and the following description gained.

At 1830 on the 8th August 1971 he stated that he had been travelling eastwards from Wallaroo to Kadina, South Australia, alone in his car. Approximately three miles from Kadina he reportedly noted that the entire area around him was lit with an orange glow. He looked around for some explanation but could find nothing to account for the glow.

Suddenly, his car engine stopped and his lights went out. He stopped the car and pulled in to the side of the road, there being no other cars on the road at the time. He got out hoping to find some explanation for the occurrence.

Upon looking for the source of the bright glow he noted, almost overhead, a dark coloured, oval-shaped object, with 3-4 "windows" in it, out of which streamed the orange light. This orange light also emanated from the outside of the object, and lit all of one side of the road and the adjacent Kadina race-course.

The object had one red and one green light on it, and he estimated that its diameter was some 30 feet. It appeared to be, though it was difficult to judge, 150 feet above the ground, as it hovered for 2-3 minutes in the one spot. He could only stand and watch.

(to next page)

## UFOs OVER SOUTH AUSTRALIA - 1971. (from page 20)

After this duration, the object moved off to the south-east over the race-course. At this point he re-entered his vehicle and started the motor, and drove home to inform his wife of the incident. His wife had immediately gone outside and in the north-north-eastern sky reportedly observed the same type of lights as described by her husband on the object. She returned inside and telephoned the local newspaper editor who quickly went outside with camera and binoculars, but to no avail. The editor was outside some 10-12 minutes after the initial incident.

From the witness' description the point on the road where the alleged incident occurred was located. It was immediately noted that a house was within 50 yards of this spot. The householders were interviewed and it transpired that on the night and at the time stated by the witness, the husband had been using an infra-red lamp in the house with no other electrical equipment on. This lamp had gone off for several minutes, at 1830, for reasons unknown to the user. They had not mentioned this to anyone before the investigator.

All other occupied houses (2) within a half mile of the indicated spot were visited, however no additional effects were discovered.

The witness wishes no further publicity on his report, and impressed the investigator as a down-to-earth, reliable, and well informed person.

(Credit: Mr. K. Basterfield for A.P.R.G.)

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Date: 18 August 1971.

Time: 0640 hours.

Duration: 10 minutes.

Location of witnesses: Sutherland, S.Aust.

Weather: Clear sky, little wind.

Witnesses: Messrs. A. & R. Jenke, 10 Laurence Street, Eudunda, South Australia.

Report: Their attention was drawn to a bright glow in the eastern sky. Upon looking around they saw in the eastern sky, at an elevation of some 30°, a cigar-shaped object.

The witnesses noted that the size was about that of a railway carriage, and that it was

glowing with a fluorescent white. It was not perfectly shaped as it tapered at one end. There were definitely no wings or any kind of protruberances.

The object moved eastwards on an even course in an apparent straight line, at a constant speed, which was estimated at about 200 m.p.h.

It disappeared from view in the distance. Further reports from Eudunda, as yet unconfirmed, indicate that other objects of similar nature have been seen in recent weeks.

(Report courtesy witnesses, for A.P.R.G.)

• • • • •

An interesting report was received on the 5th October 1971, and investigated on the 6th.

At 8.40 p.m. on the 22nd September 1971, an 18 year old apprentice was motor-cycling home from trade school towards his home in Semaphore, a suburb of Adelaide. As he was approaching his home he reported noting a light in the sky, at about 50° elevation in the western sky, which caught his attention as it appeared to descend towards the sea (Semaphore Park beach).

He was mystified as to what it could have been and detoured, taking the road to the beach to investigate further, initially losing the light behind some houses as he drew closer to it.

He proceeded to the waterfront where he reports he noted, about 25° above the sea, some dull form with lighted sections. It appeared to be about 50 feet above sea-level and about 150 feet away from him, out from the shore, and remaining motionless.

He then pointed his motor-bike in the direction of the object and switched on his lights. He shone his high beam at the form and the lighted section dimmed. When he switched off his lights the object's lighting returned to the previous level. When he repeated this trying to flash his lights, the object did not respond and faded slowly, moving out and away over the Gulf of St. Vincent.

The witness was interviewed in front of his

(to page 19)



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